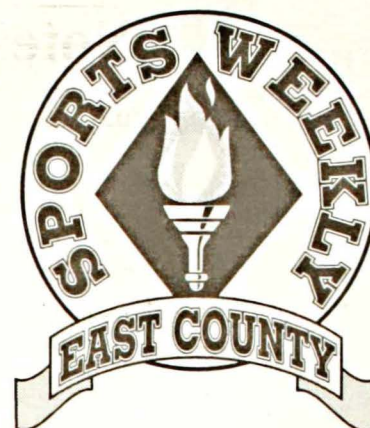


# The Lemon Grove REVIEW



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Tuesday, February 25, 1997 25¢

## Grossmont boys, El Cap girls win lopsided league games

by Greg Eichelberger

On Feb. 14, there was a key boys varsity match-up between the Northern Division-leading Grossmont Foothillers and the host second-place El Capitan Vaqueros, and a battle between the undefeated Lady Vags and the oft-conquered girl Hillers.

Preceding the varsity encounters there was an almost meaningless JV game, which only a dozen or so showed up to watch.

When the varsity girls took the court, the enthusiasm perked up a bit, but as El Cap rushed to a commanding (and embarrassing) 33-5 halftime lead (it was increased to 49-10 at the end of three quarters), the crowd began to find other interests.

With Kendra Rhea pouring in 25, and Stephanie Kindreich adding 17, the door was finally slammed on a 65-21 slaughter. Then the ladies surrendered center stage to the young men, who, over the course of the next hour or so, would fight for East County cage supremacy the only way they knew how, sheers guts and determination.

Grossmont, a perfect 6-0 going into the game, had giant 6-7 center, Vincent Okotie going against the Caps' Cade Schuelte, a full two inches shorter, and, during the course

of the affair, the difference showed markedly.

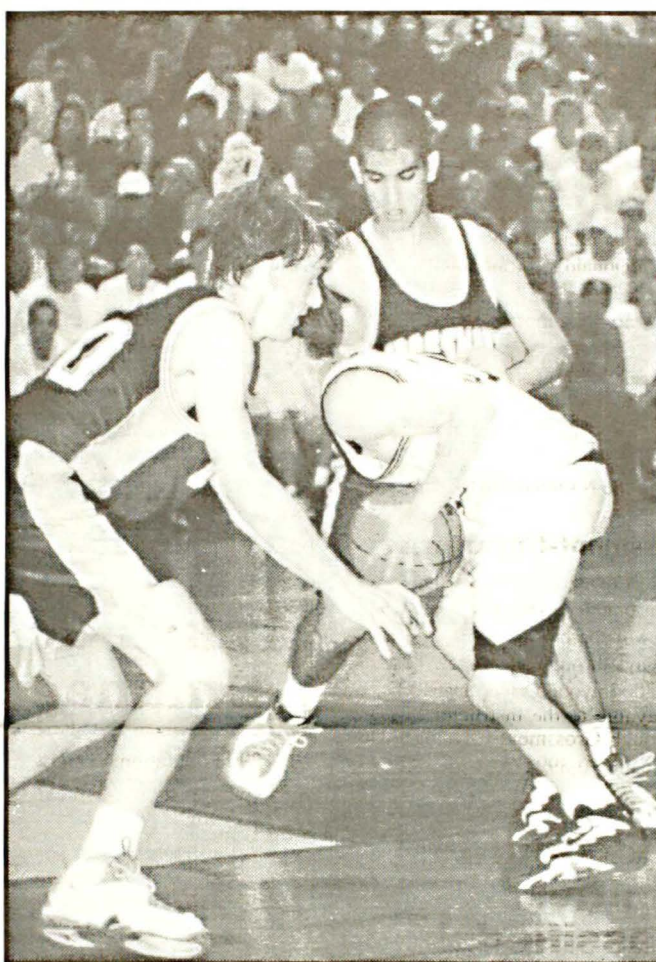
Celtic great, Bill Russell, when once asked what his favorite shot was, said, "It's the one where I hold the ball 10 inches above the rim, and let it drop in."

And, while it wasn't that easy for big number 34 for the Foothillers, it almost seemed that way. The tip-off naturally went to the taller Okotie, but Grossmont couldn't score. El Capitan actually held a one-point lead after one quarter of play, but then a run by the Hillers put Grossmont up by 10 at the half.

From there it was gravy for the La Mesa team. Out-rebounded, out-muscled, out-played by a wide margin, the Vags fell behind by as many as 20, but made one last-ditch effort to make it a game, pulling to within nine, thanks to several three-pointers by Tim Browning and had possession of the ball.

Unfortunately, a turn-over (one of the many that plagued the Vaqueros all evening) resulted in a basket and a foul (converted) for Grossmont, who never looked back after that.

It was quite a shock for the hometown crowd, especially the legion of student/fans sitting together, decked out in white T-shirts, who razzed the



El Cap's Aaron Colon tries to drive between Grossmont's Jeff Michalowski and Sam Khatibi during league showdown at El Cap which the visitors won to stay undefeated in league play.

Photo by Greg Eichelberger

visitors without mercy. All the while, the two coaches, John Bobof, of Grossmont, and Wayne Furrow, of El Cap, gestured at perceived bad calls, turnovers and the somewhat sloppy early play.

The El Capitan female five, which had so easily triumphed over their enemies, could only hide their faces in shame and pity for their male counterparts, as the Hillers drove the final nail in a 19-point drubbing.

About the only thing the Vaqueros did outdo their rivals in was penalties, holding a 25 to 15 edge, but, to be fair, the zebras who officiated the game seemed to let the Foothillers get away with some flagrant misdeemeanors, much to the dismay of the assembled multitude.

After the contest, while gathering information and statistics, we accidentally pronounced leading-scorer Okotie's (16 points) name wrong, and were chastised by the woman filling out the score book.

Sorry lady, but it was that kind of night. Charles Dickens began "A Tale Of Two Cities," with, "It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." and that sentiment was certainly appropriate last week in Lakeside. A great win for the ladies, and a humiliating setback for the boys.

## Six East County teams win Tri-area to advance to sectionals

by Michael Krawczak

South Bay hosted the AYSO League Championship Tri-Area Tournament, where the top two soccer teams from Areas R, S and V squared off.

On Feb. 15, in a single day of pool action, each team played two games, with runners-up and champions of opposing areas competing against each other. The top four teams went on to semi-final play on the 16th.

In Division 3 Boys action at Penn Athletic Field in Paradise Hills, the La Mesa Hurricanes advanced to Sunday play with opening 2-1 and 2-0 wins. They moved on to the final, when their semifinal opponent arrived without sufficient players.

In the championship game against South Bay, the Hurricanes took a 2-0 lead, only to see South Bay tie the score by the end of regulation play. South Bay went on to win in overtime, 4-2.

Also at Penn Athletic Field, the Jamul Smurfs and the Mountain Empire Kamakrazies, who met in the Area V title game, faced off again in



La Mesa Pythons (white shorts) and Santee Shooting Squad Div. 5 boys contend for ball during first round action of Tri-area championships on Feb. 15 at Bonita High School. Pythons won 1-0.

Photo by Mike Krawczak

the Division 3 Girls semifinal game, with the Kamakrazies avenging their earlier loss, 3-0.

The Kamakrazies then took on Mira Mesa in the final, losing in a shootout. In that game, Genny Petre took the opening kickoff down the right wing, scoring the Kamakrazies' only goal, in the first 10 seconds. Jolene McCall played an excellent game in goal.

The Kamakrazies' season accomplishments were quite remarkable in that they are Mountain Empire's only Division 3 Girls team and this was just their third year in AYSO soccer.

In the the Division 4 Boys tournament, East County teams didn't fare so well. The Area V champion Santee Black Panthers was eliminated after opening 1-0 and 4-1 losses. The

La Mesa Sharpshooters advanced to the semifinal game against Spring Valley at Palm Middle School, losing 2-1.

That game provided a dramatic moment, when Sharpshooter Ryan Schaffer was kicked and knocked down on a play. The referee gave the Sharpshooters a free kick just outside the penalty area. Though limping and in-visible pain, Schaffer insisted on taking the kick, then drove a perfect shot over the Spring Valley defenders into the net for La Mesa's only goal.

In the Division 4 Girls tournament at Palm Middle School, the El Cajon Tidal Wave advanced to the semi-final game, with a 2-0 win over Bonita and a 1-1 tie against Tierrasanta.

Melissa Chamney scored both goals against Bonita, with one coming off an assist from Stephanie Sweat. Both goals in the Tierrasanta tie came on penalty shots, with Anjie Goulding scoring for the Tidal Wave.

The semifinal game against Chula Vista was scoreless until late in the fourth quarter, when Chula Vista scored off a corner kick and held on to win,

1-0, handing the Tidal Wave its first loss of the season.

The La Mesa Pythons took the Division 5 Boys crown at Bonita Vista High School with a 6-0 win over the South San Diego Head Balls.

The Pythons team outscored its tournament opponents 13-0, while winning all four games, running their season record to 20-0-2. Timmy Ferrara and Cory Howard each scored twice in the final. Brandon Ciaccio and Lance Shelton shared net duties, blocking all shots on goal.

Andrew Dixon notched the first Python goal of the tournament to get the team going. John Aspinall had goals in the opening game and the final.

The Pythons went up against some familiar faces in the semifinal match. Four weeks earlier, in the Area V championship final, the Pythons handed the Santee Shooting Squad its first defeat of the season, 6-1. In a superbly played rematch, the Pythons again prevailed, 1-0.

In the Division 5 Girls final at Bonita Vista High School, (Continued on Page 3)







## Sports Beat

with Greg Eichelberger



Welcome to another addition of "Sports Beat," where, through me, you get a chance to express your opinions. Because, let's face it, I'm not afraid to say what needs to be said, and you're not afraid to read it. One of those things is this:

Let's hand it to our wonderful, "objective" media outlets throughout this whole fiasco. The supposed unbiased protectors of our local First Amendment rights just couldn't slam Bruce Henderson enough, while kissing up to the Spanos, Susan Golding or anyone remotely in favor of the (still shady) deal. Raise your hand if you believed a word of Alex Spanos' declaration that he would "never leave San Diego." If the stadium deal had fallen through, he would have had his bags packed quicker than the verdict in the first O.J. Simpson trial, friends. And nice debate tactics, guys. Call your opponent a "jerk," and leave it at that. No wonder we're in an intellectual crisis.

There's no crisis for several of our home teams, though. The SDSU women's basketball team, coached by Beth Burns, defeated Hawaii Thursday, 58-53, to clinch the Western Athletic Conference's Pacific Division title. The Lady Aztecs, 14-1 in the WAC, 19-6 overall, will now coast the remainder of the regular season and prepare for the NCAA tournament. The men, meanwhile, just can't do anything right, falling again and again.

But our Gulls keep on winning. A few weeks ago, they were in second place by three points (in hockey, a team is awarded two points for a win, and one for a tie), now they're up by six. Is another Taylor Cup on the horizon for our icemen? If so, it would be the only local professional team to repeat as champions since the heyday of the MISL San Diego Sockers.

A little more than a month ago, we did an expose on the Steve Scott Mile, and wondered how, despite pouring a massive amount of cash into the event, if Santee was really getting its money's worth. Well, if last week's U.T. article by Don Norcross was any indication, Santee was left in the lurch again. While mentioning the upcoming Carlsbad 5000 and Mary Decker Slaney's participation in it, not one word was written about the recent footrace she won right here in our own backyard. Looks like Jack Dale, Jim Bartell and others will have to do a little more PR work next time, eh?

Now for some prep recognition. In the latest coaches' top 10 rankings, quite a few East County schools found themselves firmly entrenched. In boys basketball, Helix (20-8) was at number eight, while in girls play, El Capitan (20-7), Santana (24-4) and Christian (23-0) were rated numbers four, five and six, respectively. Boys soccer had Valhalla in the top position, while the Granite Hills squad and El Cap girls held down numbers five and nine in their polls. In girls water polo, the Norsewomen are ranked number five and the Vaqueros at position nine. And, in wrestling, Valhalla was at two, El Cajon Valley at five, Santana at nine and Monte Vista was ranked 10. Sports Beat kudos to high-scoring Grossmont High center, Vincent Okotie, who earned Athlete of the Week honors by scoring 21 points against Santana and 17 against El Cap, to help lead his cagers to another Grossmont North title and a berth in the CIF playoffs. The 6-6 junior has also never lost a league game in his three years on the varsity team.

Uh, I can feel the icy finger of my editor (or is that death) tapping me on the shoulder to indicate my time (and space) is up for this week. Fear not, though, you can reach me with your recreation news at 390-7103. Until then, have a great sports week.

## CIF Playoffs

(East County teams in bold)

Call schools for times  
and locations (where necessary)

**Tuesday** - BASKETBALL Boys Div. I: Sweetwater at **Helix**, **Granite Hills** at Poway, Torrey Pines at **Valhalla**. Div. II: Serra at **El Capitan**, **Monte Vista** at Hilltop, **El Cajon Valley** at Oceanside, Castle Park at **West Hills**, **Grossmont** (bye). Div. V: **Christian** (bye). SOCCER Boys Div. IV: Mountain Empire at **Christian**.

**Wednesday** - BASKETBALL Girls - Div. I: **Granite Hills** at Rancho Buena Vista, La Costa Canyon at **Valhalla**. Div. II: **West Hills** at Scripps Ranch, University City at **Mount Miguel**, **Monte Vista** at Escondido, **El Cajon Valley** at El Camino, **Santana** (bye), **El Capitan** (bye). Div. V: **Christian** (bye). SOCCER Boys Div. II: San Pasqual at **El Capitan**. Div. III: Clairemont at **Santana**.

**Thursday** - SOCCER QUARTERFINALS Boys - Div. I: Chula Vista/Vista winner at **Valhalla**. Girls - Div. I: **Valhalla** at **Granite Hills**.

**Friday** - BASKETBALL QUARTERFINALS (at highest seed) Boys - Div. I - II - III. SOCCER QUARTERFINALS Boys - Div. III: **Santana**/ Clairemont winner at Mission Bay. Div. IV at neutral sites. Girls - Div. III: **Santana** at Eastlake. Div. IV (SEMI-FINALS): **Christian** at Francis Parker.

**Saturday** - BASKETBALL Boys - Div. IV FINALS at Grossmont College. Div. V QUARTERFINALS at highest seeded team. Girls QUARTERFINALS - Div. I - II at highest seeded teams. Div. IV at higher seeded team. SOCCER SEMIFINALS: Div. I boys and girls at neutral sites.

**Tuesday** (3/4) - BASKETBALL SEMIFINALS - Boys Div. III, Girls Div. I - II at neutral sites. Div. V Girls SEMIFINALS at high seeded team. SOCCER - Boys Div. II - III, Girls Div. II - III SEMIFINALS. Div. IV FINALS at neutral sites.

## Foreign influence is strongly felt on 1997 Cuyamaca College golf team

By Norrie West

Cuyamaca Community College is small in numbers compared to other similar schools, but it has a big future in its 1997 golf team that coach Fred Brown has put together.

Fred has assembled a team with an international flavor along with considerable talent.

The roster of 14 eager candidates includes five young men here all the way from Sweden, four of them first-year students, and one golfer, Hart Huang of Korea, who is in his sophomore year.

So far, competing twice this month already, Fred's golfers have outshot the teams they have faced.

On Feb. 3, in the 6th annual Poomonia Victorville College tournament, Cuyamaca's team had a 208 total, outshooting second place Rio Hondo by three strokes, and 12 other teams by much more.

They played on the Spring Valley GC at Victorville.

A week later, in a competition at Moreno Valley Ranch GC in Riverside, the Coyotes shot 392, nine better than Rancho Santiago and Golden West colleges.

Jens Ulstrom, one of the Swedish boys, shot even-par 72 to take individual medalist honors.

The other four Swedish players are Andreas Johansson, Gustav Back, Mathias Johansson and Steffen Skogewall.

Also on the squad are Marc Ridout, from Grossmont College, Kevin Chase from Lemon Grove Lutheran, Todd Fuller, a transfer from Fresno State, and Joe Morgan.

Fred's boys have two more matches this month, the second one, Feb. 26, is at Singing Hills CC, which is Cuyamaca's home course.



Cuyamaca College golf coach Fred Brown (left) and Andreas Johansson watch Joe Morgan on the practice range at Singing Hills. Morgan and Johansson are members of the college golf team.

Photo by Norrie West

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## AYSO ...

Continued from Page 1

the Santee Sharpshooters suffered its first defeat in 30 games as a team, falling to the Spring Valley Iguanas, 2-0, in a shootout.

The two goals scored by the Iguanas matched the total number of goals allowed by the Sharpshooters throughout all their previous games.

In pool play, the Sharpshooters downed the Chula Vista Hot Peppermints, 2-0, and the Mira Mesa Red Dragons, 4-0. In the semi-final game, the Sharpshooters and the Mira Mesa Screammers played even through four quarters and double overtime, with Santee prevailing 2-0 in a shootout.

Area V's six champion teams will continue their season at the sectional tournament in Irvine on March 1.

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